

Message Text

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73/21
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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P R 220716Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9594
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMCONGEN HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 5288

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - E.O., TAGS, AND SUBJ LINES ADDED.

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR PINS VS
SUBJ: REACTION TO PRESIDENT THIEU'S RESIGNATION

REF: TOKYO 5194

SUMMARY: IN INITIAL REACTION TO PRES THIEU'S RESIGNATION,
POLITICAL PARTIES ISSUED STATEMENTS ALONG FAMILIAR LINES.
LDP EXPRESSED HOPE INDOCHINESE PEOPLE WOULD NEGOTIATE
SETTLEMENT AND ACHIEVE SELF-DETERMINATION. OPPOSITION, IN
VARYING DEGREES, LAMBASTED US POLICIES AND GOJ FOR HAVING
FOLLOWED THEM. FONOFF CONCERNED OVER IMPACT IN ASEAN
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COUNTRIES.
END SUMMARY.
BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. WHILE GOJ HAS NOT YET COMMENTED ON PRES THIEU'S RESIGNATION, ALL POLITICAL PARTIES, INCLUDING LDP, ISSUED STATEMENTS. LDP STATEMENT, DOUBTLESSLY REFLECTING THINKING OF GOJ LEADERS, CONSIDERED THIEU'S RESIGNATION AS ELEMENT OF MOVE IN SVN TO "RACIAL SELF-DETERMINATION", LDP HOPED, THROUGH COOPERATIVE TALKS RATHER THAN FIGHTING. STATEMENT SAID JAPAN SHOULD PROVIDE REFUGEE AND WELFARE ASSISTANCE. BOTH JSP AND JCP SAID THIEU'S FALL MARKED COLLAPSE OF US INDOCHINA POLICY, AND JSP ADDED THAT IT SHOPED THIEU'S RESIGNATION WOULD NOT OBSTRUCT "COMPLETE IMPLEMENTATION OF PARIS ACCORDS". JSP ALSO CALLED FOR JAPANESE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE IN RECONSTRUCTION OF SVN. KOMEITO STATEMENT ADVOCATED CHANGE OF POLICY FROM FOLLOWING US LEAD TO CONSTRUCTIVE EFFORTS TO BRING PEACE TO INDOCHINA. DSP EXPRESSED HOPE FOR POLITICAL SOLUTION.

2. DESPITE BANNER HEADLINES ON THIEU'S RESIGNATION IN PRESS, IN ONLY PRESS COMMENTARY THUS FAR, ASAHI CALLED FOR POLICIES "INDEPENDENT FROM US, BASED ON JAPAN'S OWN ASSESSMENT AND ACTION". CITING FONOFF SOURCES, ASAHI SAID GOJ ANTICIPATED DOMINANT INFLUENCE BY HANOI IN INDOCHINA AND HEIGHTENED RIVALRY BETWEEN SOVIETS AND CHINESE COMPETING FOR INFLUENCE. SAME FONOFF SOURCES EXPRESSED ANXIETY OVER IMPACT OF EVENTS IN INDOCHINA ON ASEAN STATES AND PONDERED WHETHER JAPAN SHOULD STEP UP ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH ASEAN TO OFFSET "DRASTICALLY REDUCED US INFLUENCE AND PRESENCE" IN ASIA. END UNCLASSIFIED.BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. FONOFF FIRST SE ASIA DIVISION DIRECTOR HANABUSA EXPRESSED SIMILAR CONCERNS TO US, JUDGING THAT ASEAN STATES WOULD ATTEMPT TO DISENGAGE FROM THOSE TIES WITH US AND ACCOMMODATE TO HANOI'S AND PEKING'S GROWING INFLUENCE IN INDOCHINA. IN CONTRAST, HANABUSA COMMENTED THAT IN WAKE OF INDOCHINA'S TAKEOVER BY COMMUNISTS, NE ASIAN STATES, JAPAN, ROK, AND TAIWAN, WOULD SEEK TO MOVE CLOSER TO US TO STRENGTHEN SECURITY GUARANTEES. ALTHOUGH NOT SANGUINE ABOUT POSSIBILITIES, FONOFF HOPES THIEU'S RESIGNATION WILL LEAD TO NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT.

3. ASAHI REPORTED THAT STUDENT MEMBERS OF " SOCIETY OF VIETNAMESE
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FOR PEACE AND UNIFICATION OF VN" (BEHEITO) EXPRESSED "JUBILATION" OVER THIEU'S FALL. (COMMENT: BEHEITO IS LED BY SMALL GROUP OF ANTI-THIEU STUDENTS IN TOKYO WITH LIMITED INFLUENCE AMONG PERHAPS 100 OF 800 VIETNAMESE RESIDENT IN JAPAN).

4. COMMENT: SOUR PRESS AND OPPOSITION REACTION TOWARD FOLLOWING US LEAD IN INDOCHINA POLICIES IS LIKELY TO TURN NEXT ON FONOFF. FONOFF, HOPES TO DEFLECT CRITICISM SOMEWHAT BY ESTABLISHING SOME DISTANCE PUBLICLY BETWEEN ITSELF AND US IN FORMULATION OF NEW POLICIES TOWARD INDOCHINA AND REST OF SE ASIA. DESPITE THIS TACTIC AND DISASTERS IN INDOCHINA, GOJ WOULD BE GREATLY DISTRESSED IF THEY EXPECTED US TO LOSE

INTEREST IN ASEAN COUNTRIES AS RESULT OF INDOCHINESE DEVELOPMENTS.

HODGSON

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